

February has been our month for snow, with a couple of major storms. They all seem to have fallen on weekends. This has resulted in substantial overtime for my crew and my foreman and I. Many in my crew have accumulated close to 100 hours of overtime during the month of February. I am in the process of submitting information to KEMA concerning the blizzard on February 8 – 10, 2013. If the communities reach the threshold, we may receive some emergency funding.

This past month was also expensive on the equipment repair side. We replaced a large amount of springs on our single axle trucks and a high amount of cutting edges. Both can be attributed to having trucks on the road plowing and sanding almost every day during February. The costliest repair was to replace the radiator on our newest truck, the 2012 Freightliner. It appears that nobody constructs heavy duty trucks to handle the rigors of snow removal. We had the same issues with our 2008 Sterling. Luckily there is a shop in Skowhegan that can fabricate custom radiators to handle this type of environment. At this point, both manufacturers have paid a large portion of the cost for these radiators. The disappointing part is the loss of our new truck for two weeks in the middle of winter.

On February 13, 2013, we held a public meeting with the residents of Taylor Road to explain the proposed road reconstruction project. It was well attended and well received. I was concerned that residents would oppose cutting trees to allow ditching, however, everyone was very receptive. They seemed to accept that they had to sacrifice a few trees to allow us to construct the road properly. More details to follow after our next public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Fongemie

Public Works Director